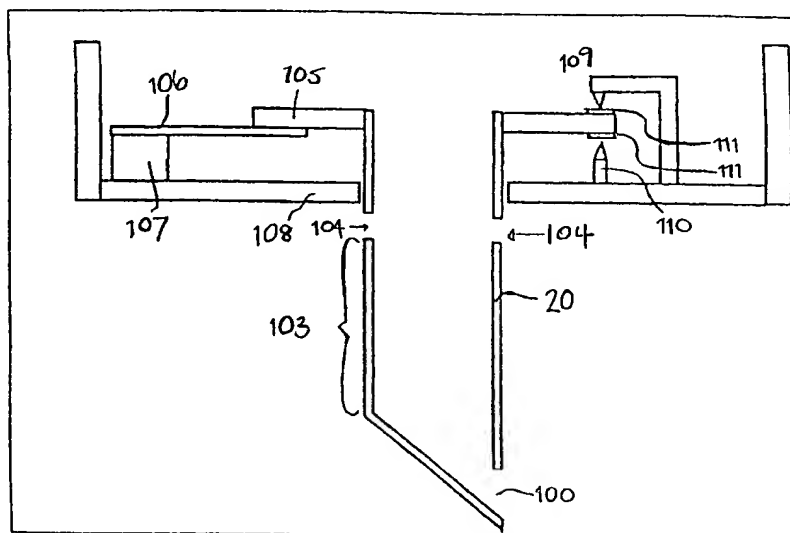


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(54) Title: MEASURING AND CONTROLLING THE FLOW OF FLOWABLE MATERIALS



## (57) Abstract

A method of determining an inlet flow rate ( $F_{inlet}$ ) of a flowable material including passing an inlet stream of flowable material through a chamber (20) having an outlet aperture (100); measuring a first rate of change of quantity of material in the chamber (20) when the material is entering at said inlet flow rate; measuring a second rate of change of quantity of material in the chamber (20) when no material is entering the chamber (20); and calculating the inlet flow rate ( $F_{inlet}$ ) from said first and second rates, wherein both rate measurements are made while the whole of the outlet aperture (100) of the chamber (20) is occupied by the flowable material.